



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District
during the year 1952.



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To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health F. D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector S. HAIGH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

The health of the district remains very good indeed though certain figures revealed in the following tables require further comment by way of explanation.

The mid-year population figure shows an increase of about 300 on last year's estimate which is largely attributed to the fact that the present figure is based on the 1951 Census returns.

The birth rate shows a fall on last year's rate, and the death rate a fractional increase, but it remains below that of the rest of the Country. The figure for Infantile Mortality is again high this year, which though undoubtedly disappointing, is not statistically significant as the Table showing rates and numbers for the past five years em-

phasises. It may be of interest to learn that of the 7 deaths which occurred of children under 1 year of age, 6 occurred in hospital and that of those 6 all occurred within 7 days of birth.

The construction of new housing has made splendid progress throughout the year, and has encouraged us to consider the question of dealing with some of the worst of the unfit houses by Clearance Area procedure. This, however cannot be commenced until the waiting list of applicants for housing is further reduced.

The problem of the deterioration of the old houses constituting as it does a serious weakness of our own housing programme, must be solved if we are to continue to advance in our efforts to provide the necessary homes for our people.

Work on the Sewerage Scheme to enable the works to deal with the increased flow of the district, together with the new Scheme nearing completion by Norman Cross R.D.C., has had to be postponed until 1953 for reasons outside the control of the district.

The water pressure is still giving rise to anxiety and it is felt that this matter, referred to later in the Report by the Sanitary Inspector, must be solved to the satisfaction of all interested parties as early as possible.

The period has been notable in that for another year there have been no notifications of either Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria. Over the former we have little control at the present time, but a great deal of control can be exercised over the latter and I make no apology for emphasising the necessity for parents to ensure that their children are immunised against Diphtheria at an early age, and certainly by 12 months.

The Old People's Club, now a very firmly established concern, continues to play a very important part in the life of the community thanks to its willing and enthusiastic workers.

The position with regard to the accommodation of old people in Homes or Hospitals for Chronic Sick continues to give rise to some anxiety. Delay in gaining admission is usually encountered and there is often difficulty in deciding which type of accommodation is the appropriate one.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Members of the Council and my professional colleagues for their willing help and co-operation throughout the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1952)	9145
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1952	2553
Rateable Value	£46,750
Value of Penny Rate 31/3/1952	£182

LIVE BIRTHS

Birth Rate per 1000 population	14.3
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STILL BIRTHS

Rate per 1000 total births	43.8
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DEATHS

Death rate per 1000 population	9.5
Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	53.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	49.2
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	111.1

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Actual Number of Deaths	3	5	1	6	7
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	23.1	39.4	8.1	36.4	53.4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Stand- ardized Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Old Fletton	14.3	0.66	9.5	10.15	53.4
England & Wales	15.3	0.35	11.3	11.3	27.6

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	58	31	89
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	1	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	5	11
18. Coronary disease, angina	3	—	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease	20	7	27
21. Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	4	1	5
24. Bronchitis	—	2	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	1	1
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	5	4	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
34. All other accidents	3	—	3
35. Suicide	2	—	2
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities :

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities :

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases the area is covered by the ambulance service of the Soke of Peterborough County Council under an agreement with Huntingdon County Council, which is the Local Health Authority responsible. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

(c) Nursing in the Home :

Nursing in the district is carried on by two qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. Both nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres :

Infant Welfare work in the district is still carried out by the Fletton and District Infant and Child Welfare Association by arrangement with Huntingdon County Council. The Infant Welfare Clinic has weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :—

School Clinic

(Minor Ailment)		London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 10—12.
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Eyes			London Road Clinic. By Appt.
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Dental Clinic			High Street, Old Fletton.
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Tuberculosis			28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Every Monday 2—4 p.m. By Appt.
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Orthopaedic			Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 2nd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic	.....	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	.....	.....	28 Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Women Only—Wednesday 5.30— 7 p.m. Friday 10.30—12 noon. Men Only—Monday 5.30—7 p.m. Thursday 5.30—7 p.m.
Ante-Natal	.....	.....	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the Month, 2—4 p.m.

(e) **Hospitals :**

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon.
- (2) General hospital services including Out-patient facilities are provided at Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity Cases at The Gables, Peterborough, or the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The routine visits of inspection in connection with this work have been carried out as in past years.

HOUSING.

During the year ended 31st December, 1952, the Council completed 39 houses and a further 9 were erected by private enterprise.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the Council have endeavoured to proceed with the proposed Sewerage Scheme but so far the work has not yet commenced.

WATER SUPPLY.

The entire district is served by a mains water supply which although of a hard nature is otherwise satisfactory in quality, but there is at times a lowness of pressure when the consumption is very heavy. The increased demand is brought about by the additional facilities and extra houses and this will continue its increase.

The Council are considering the question of extra storage and pumping plant.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Efforts have been continued throughout the year to reduce atmospheric pollution and some improvement has been obtained in the worst cases.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	25
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	20	30
Smoke Pollution	2	6
Accumulation of Refuse	Nil	Nil
Foul ditches etc.	Nil	Nil
Drains	6	12
Dampness	Nil	Nil
Animals	Nil	Nil

Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	No. established	.....	Nil
	No. of inspections	.....	Nil
Food—seizures of unwholesome	No. of	.....	6
	Total Weight	.....	68 lbs.
Water Closets	New provided	.....	48
Ashbins	New provided	.....	94

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.....	.....	18
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	.....	18
2	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (inc. under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.....	.....	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	.....	Nil
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	9
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	.....	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES :

No. of shops inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
Total No. of visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60
No. requiring additional heating	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
No. requiring additional ventilation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
No. requiring additional sanitary conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

No. of houses infested	.....	(a) Council—Nil.	(b) Private—Nil
No. of houses disinfested	.....	(a) Council—Nil.	(b) Private—Nil

DISINFECTION.

Cases of infectious diseases reported	.....	12	No. of inspections	.....	24
Rooms disinfected (a) Tuberculosis	.....	1	(b) Others	.....	11
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	Nil	

WATER SUPPLY	{	Samples taken for analysis	.....	12
		„ condemned	.....	Nil
		Wells closed	.....	Nil
		Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	.....	Nil
		Public supply substituted for well or pond	.....	Nil

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Retailers' Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Total No. of inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	.....	.....	Nil
Convictions	.....	.....	Nil

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1937.

Factories	.....	.....	Total number on Register (including bakehouses)	21
			No. in which nuisances abated	Nil
Bakehouses	.....	.....	No. on register	3
			No. in which nuisances abated	Nil
Homework	.....	.....	No. of outworkers	10
Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	.....	.....	.....	Nil
			Convictions	Nil

S. HAIGH,
Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1952.

DISEASE	TOTAL													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards			
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	2	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	7	26	34	32	48	136	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	7	11	6	9	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The year was notable for quite a considerable epidemic of Measles. Cases on the whole were mild and there were no deaths.

One case of Paratyphoid Fever was introduced into the district but was fortunately prevented from giving rise to any secondary case.

Tuberculosis.

Notifications show an increase of 5 on last year. For yet another year there was no notification of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis and I should like to see this type of Tuberculosis eliminated entirely in the district. Infected milk is by far the most important causative factor, the remedy being heat treatment of all milk retailed.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	7	4	—	—	1	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

